Annual Report of the Commissioners of

Total number treated...

Number of days spent in hospital by inmates.

Number relieved in several counties of this 103,066

mates.

Number relieved in several counties of this State and chargeable to this commission, Forwarded to inland places at the expense of this commission, in whole or in part, from the city of New-York.

Number returned to Europe in whole or in part at the expense of this commission.

Number provided with situations through the office of this commission, (partly estimated,) females.

Number provided with situations through the office of this commission, (partly estimated,) males.

Number provided with situations through the office of this commission, (partly estimated,) males.

Number supplied with lodging, supper and breakfast.

Number supplied with lodging house in Chambers street.

Average per night.

43

Of the above the males were.

5,696

Number of lunatics in city asylum supported by this commission, during the year, Number of licences issued to emigrant boarding houses.

Number of licenses issued to runners.

"" bookers...

The great amelioration of the mode of care

The whole number of persons who have, in various ways, been chargeable to the Commissioners for occasional temporary sid, up to long continued support and medical care, was over 50,000, or above 10,000 more than during 1819. This increase naturally results from the annual increase of the whole number entitled to claim assistance until the expiration of five years from the time of commutation. In the last year, the necessitous portion of the emigration for above three years and a half, in all parts of the State, claimed assistance. The whole number of commuted person still living is probably not much less than one-third more than those of the preceding year. Thus it will be seen that the increase of persons actually demanding aid is in a less proportion, indicating how large a number have found the means of independence or self support since their arrival on these shores.

EECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES AND PINANCIAL CONCERNS OF THE COMMISSION.

The funds of the commission are now mainly derived from the payment of \$1.50 from each alien passenger, in commutation for the secsrities required by the act of April 11, 1849. There are some small additions to these receipts, from collections from bonds given by owners or consignees, or received from them by compromise, or for penalties for violation or neglect of the requirement of law, and also from other contingencies of small amount.

The following are the abstracts of statements of The whole number of persons who have, in vari-

amount.

The following are the abstracts of statements of the receipts and expenditures of the commission under their several heads:—

Amount received for commutation of special bonds.

Amount received from masters and owners of vessels for violations of law...

Amount received for mortgage of real estate.

Amount received for trustees of Seaman's Fund Retreat.

Amount received for advances made to orphans.

Amount received for support of illegitimate children 322 66 mate children

Amount received for advances made to emigrants for transportation into the

13,483 46 institutions.... For the support of emigrant re-

Balance of fund in Mechanics' Bank, 

(The report here suggests to the Legislature as a means of relieving the emugrant fund, the removal of the expenses of the boat and boatmen employed by the health officer at quarantine, for purposes not strictly strictly connected with the emigrant institution. The report then proceeds to the two following items of expenditure:—)

By the act of the 10th April, 1850, the commuta-tion money of \$150, authorized to be paid instead of bonds for each alien passwinger arriving at this port, is directed to be paid to the health commis-sioner, whose receipt thereof is made a discharge from the requirement of bonds from owners or con-signers.

The health commissioner is required to pay over, The health commissioner is required to pay over, daily, the money so received to the city chamber-lain, (as the treasurer of the fund,) with an account thereof. As a compensation, in lieu of fees and per centage, the Health Commissioner receives by law a salary of \$3,500 per annum, to be paid by the Commissioners of Emigration. No other duty in regard to this matter is expressly required of this officer by law; though it may be a legal inference that he should take all the proper precautions and means needed to ensure the collection of the sum, for the receipt of which he is so liberally paid.

During the last twelvemonth a loss has occurred to the fund of \$3,102.50, by reason of repeated non-payments of commutation for passengers who had arrived in several foreign vessels, consigned to a house which has since become insolvent.

It therefore appears that the intervention of the Health Commissioner, as a receiving officer at a large compensation adds notices to the certainty.

Health Commissioner, as a receiving officer at a large compensation, adds nothing to the certainty or efficiency of the collection. The other duties of the Health Commissioner relate to the general concerns of the public health, without any immediate connection with the concerns of this commissioner.

it is therefore respectfully submitted, whether the rights and interests of the fund, collected for a specific object, under strict constructional inhibition against its diversion to any other object, would not be consulted by releasing the Commissioners of Emigration from the payment of this officer's salary, and authorizing, by law, the money paid for commutation to be received by some person specially delegated by the Board, and under their impediate inspection.

their immediate inspection

This duty could be safely assigned to some person cherged with other duties, with some additional compensation, so that a saving of near

\$3.000 might be made to this fund, now scarcely sufficient for its legitimate purposes.

The Health Commissioner's compensation for his other duties, not touching the concerns of this commission, should be paid from some other

commission, should be paid from some other quarter.

The greatly decreased proportion of patients at the Marine Hospital since the change of that establishment, from a general hospital for the reception of all who had paid hospital or commutation money, to a quarantine establishment for infectious or contagious diseases, has led the Commissioners to the belief that some economical changes might be made by law, without detriment to the public service.

The number of the assistant physicians is now fixed permanently at four throughout the year, whilst the actual service for a considerable portion of the year can be competently discharged by the chief, with two assistants.

Such a modification of the law respecting the Marine Hospital might be made as to reduce the fixed number of assistants to two, with the authority to employ increased medical aid in case of emergency.

It is also submitted, by a majority of the Com-

emergency.

It is also submitted, by a majority of the Commissioners, whether a reduction may not be properly made in the salary of the physician of the Marine Hospital.

After the new organization of the Quarantine Department at Staten Island, under the act of April 11, 1849, which restricted the reception of patients into the Marine Hospital mainly to those afflicted with infectious or contagious diseases, the increase of medical and surgical patients at Ward's Island, frequently amounting to one half the number of emigrants received there, required a corresponding increase in the medical service of the emigrant hospital on that island. This demand was at first met, as was stated in our last annual report, by the division of the duties of superintendent from the medical charge, and the appointment of a resident physician in chief, with such medical assistants as the number of patients from time to time might render necessary. This system went into operation in June, 1849, and was continued above a year. But a majority of the commissioners became gradually convinced that whatever might be the fidelity or ability with which it was administered, it could not supply the efficient service required by a hospital unsurpassed in aumber, and in variety of cases, by any establishment in this country, containing not less than six hundred patients, and generally from seven to nine hundred, requiring the aid of medical and surgical skill in every department of medical science. For a small sanitary establishment, or in one specially devoted to any single class of maladies, such as insanity, or the diseases of the eye, the plan of a single head, it was admitted, had its advantages and efficiency. But they thought that the variety of diseases, and numerous patients under their charge demanded, in order to receive the full benefit of the present advanced state of professional science, a variety of ability and experience, medical, surgical, obstetrical, or relating to diseases of the eye or other organs, which have within the last thirty years be come separate branches of study, such skill as it is impossible to find combined in any one individual.

The experience of several of the largest and EMIGRANT REFUGE AND HOSPITAL DEPARTMENT ON WARD'S ISLAND.

such skill as it is impossible to find combined in any one individual.

The experience of several of the largest and best managed hospitals of New York, and other great cities, has shown that by appointing a sufficient number of practising physicians and surgeons to divide the higher hospital duties among them in rotation, without sacrificing or abandoning their private practice, professional talent of a higher order in every branch, could be commanded for the service of the poor and destitute. The regular visits of such a body of practitioners, directing the practice in each case, or for the performance of surgical operations, aided by the constant attendance of younger but well educated physicians, constantly resident in the establishment, thus secure to the humblest class of patients, a degree of medical care and skill noways inferior to that bestowed on the most opulent patient.

Such is the arrangement which has prevailed, with universal approbation, for more than fifty versar in the New York heavital in the interest.

Such is the arrangement which has prevailed, with universal approbation, for more than fifty years in the New York hospital is this city, and which has been more recently introduced into the Bellevue hospital. A similar plan has for years been followed in the best institutions of this sort in Philadelphia and Boston, as well as in many of the largest and best governedpublic hospitals of Paris, London and Dublin.

When hospitals, thus managed, are situated in the midst of a great city, or its immediate vicinity, so that the required attendance can be given by physicians without a serieus interference with their private practice, it is found, that the professional standing given by connection with a great public institution, the experience there gained, and the facilities of public and private instruction afforded, render such places so desirable, that they are accepted and often eagerly sought for, without any direct pecuniary compensation.

After deliberate examination of the operation of this system in several institutions, the Commissioners determined to apply it to the Ward's Island hospital.

The order of visitation has been so arranged as to give the attendance of at least two physicians and one surgeon every day; the time spent by them

The order of visitation has been so arranged as to give the attendance of at least two physicians and one surgeon every day; the time spent by them must of course vary according to the necessities of the case, but it has thus far been found that the length of time spent in these visits by the three on duty amounts to an average of about thirteen hours a day, or about four hours and a half each.

Four house physicians and two house surgeons, with a medical assistant to each, have also been appointed, who reside on the island and attend to the practice of the hospital, and the administration of medicines, under the direction of the visiting physicisns and surgeons. They receive no emolument other than board and washing, being selected from the younger members of the profession, being, however, graduates, and recommended to the Commissioners by the medical board after examination. missioners by the medical board after examination.

In addition to this arrangement for regular professional services, the experience of other hospitals recommended the appointment of some consulting physicians and surgeons, gentlemen of the highest standing and experience, upon whom the Commis-sioners or the medical board might rely for advice when specially consulted. This was carried into

when specially coasulted. This was carried into effect.

The system as above described, went into full operation on the lst September, 1850, and so far as the experience of nearly five months can test it, the expectations tentertained by most of the Commissioners have not been disappointed.

The comparison of the returns of the last four months of 1850, with those of the same period in 1849, shows a decrease in the proportion of deaths of about one-sixth, there being no particular epidemic prevailing at either period. This, however, may be the result of circumstances other than the change of system.

msy be the result of circumstances other than the change of system. A more satisfactory result has been presented to the Commissioners on the weekly visits of their may be the result of circumstances other than the change of system.

A more satisfactory result has been presented to the Commissioners on the weekly visits of their committees and the occasion! visits of others of them, in the generally improved appearance and service of the hospital wards, and particularly in the great diminution of opthalmia, which had hitherto afflicted the emigrant children, and the entire disappearance of its more malignant form.

In connection with the subject of hospital practice, it is proper to add, that during the last autumn certain charges were made, in some city papers, in relation to post mortem examinations and dissections. These were examined by a committee of this board, and afterwards by the grand jury.

In the opinion of a majority of the committee, which was sustained by this board, these charges were either groundless or grossly exaggerated, with the exception of one act of some of the younger medical assistants. This was punished by the dismissal or suspension of the offenders.

By an arrangement with the New York Hospital, persons chargeable to this commission, taken ill in the night, or incapable from any sudden casualty of being removed from the city, are received at that institution, at the charge of the Commissioners, for such time as the nature of the case may demand; all those who can be removed without danger, being sent to Ward's Island or the Marine Hospital without delay.

By an arrangement with the Governor's of the Aims House, the insane emigrants chargeable to this fund are received and taken care of at the asylum on Blackwell's island.

The carrying the Croton water across the broad and deep channel which separates Ward's Island from Manhattan Island, has been completed, and the expense of the work, although large, has been amply compensated by the numerous advantages of health and comfort which it affords.

MARINE HOSPITAL AT STATEN ISLAND.

This institution does hot for the past year, exhibit

MARINE HOSPITAL AT STATEN ISLAND. This institution does not for the past year, exhibit the same accumulation of patients as in former

years.

The unusual health of emigrants arriving during

The unusual health of emigrants arriving during the past year, in connection with the law of 1849, which permits admission into this hospital of those persons who are only affected with contagious or infectious disease, has produced this favorable result. During the greater portion of the summer the small hospital buildings have been closed, and the main edifices were alone required for the accommodation of the sick. And the Commissioners began to indulge the hope that the latter would be henceforth sufficient for their purposes. Since the expiration of last year, however, the number of patients has increased from about 175 to more than 500, and all the hospitals are again in occupation.

The Commissioners respectfully refer the Legislature to their report of last year, under the head of Marine Hospital, in which are pointed out numerous defects in the law regulating this institution. Once or twice during the past year these defects have produced difficulties in this hospital, at which the Commissioners could not but feel much regret. The chief physician and his areitants are appointed by the Governor and Senate for an unlimited term, without any control being reserved by law over them, except during the passion of the Legislauure. No matter what neglect of daty may exist, or imprepriety be committed, there is no power reserved to suspend or dismiss after the adjournment

of the Legislature. This is an omission which, if not supplied, may be the cause of great evil.

To the physician of the Marine Hospital is given the supermendence and control of the santary treatment of the patient; yet the assistant physicians alone have the power of appointment and dismissal of nurses and orderlies; a power which, in many cases, may materially interfere with, if not utterly prevent, the intended control by the physician in chief.

The third section of the laws of 1850 authorizes the commissioners to take charge of the property of infant emigrant orphans whose parents have died on the voyage or at the hospitals. Many adults die at this institution, leaving property of various value, from twenty-five ceats upwards. The large majority, however, is of sums so small, that if obliged to pass through the hands of the public administrator they would be entirely consumed in paying surrogate's expenses and commissions of administrator. Considerable time also must elapse before he can settle his accounts and pay over balances, if any, to next of kin. In the interim those who are entitled to the property and its avails have proceeded to other parts of the country, and the money belonging to the poorest is thus kept from them and passes into the city treasury. The Commissioners, therefore, suggest the propriety of conferring upon them the same power over the property of all emigrants dying on the voyage or in this institution, as they now have over the property belonging to infant orphans.

The Commissioners have caused preceedings to be taken for the recovery of the wharf and ground under water at Staten Island, long used by the Richmond turnpike company, and have every reason to expect a favorable result. The court of last resort has already decided the principle involved in the case. The wharf and ground are of great value and importance to the Commissioners.

The Lingence office and labor exchange, at which place emigrants desiring work, and persons desiring laborers of any description, have ample op

All of which is respectfully submitted.

G. C. VERPLANCK, G. C. VERPLANCK,
SAMUEL SMITH,
Mayor of the City of Brooklyn.
A. R. LAWRENCE,
ROBERT B. MINTURN,
C. S. WOODHULL,
MAYOR of the City of New York.
JOINE E. DEVELIN,
ADOLPH RODEWALD.

The Salt Springs of New York. The Superintendent of the Onondaga Salt Springs furnished his regular annual report to the Legislature, a few days since. It is quite a long document, and the details which it comprises, would take more space than we can give. therefore, give a synopsis of its contents:-

The whole quantity of salt manufactured and inspected in the city of Syracuse, and the villages of Liverpool and Geddes, in the year ending December 31, 1350, is as follows:—
Salina. Coarse salt..... 46,546

Ground, or dairy salt	262,730	
Total at Salina Syracuse.		2,175,711
Coarse salt	287,446 843,882 53,600	
Total at Syracuse		1,184,928
Coarse salt	648,832	
Total at Liverpool		648,832
Coarse salt Fine salt Ground, or dairy salt	26,718 232,730	
Total at Geddes		259,448
Amount of bushels inspected in 1850	*****	4,268,919
The whole amount of revenu Superintendent, during the year, Duties on 4,268,919 bushels of	is as follo salt, at 1	ws, viz:
cent per bushel		103 00
Penalties, old logs, &c	******	30 00

Deposited for rents, penalties, property sold, &c....

Total am't of deposits from all sources, including bounty paid on salt, as above, \$42,824 19

The quantity of salt inspected during the past year, as compared with the year previous, shows a diminution of \$14,450 bushels.

The principal cause may be attributed to the unusually large amount manufactured the previous year. The markets on the lakes being overstocked, required but little, until the first of August; and the importation of foreign salt for the year 1849 exceeded that of any former year by 397,978 bushels.

During a period of twenty years, there has been manufactured at the Onondaga salt springs 59,655.

During a period of twenty years, there has been manufactured at the Onondaga salt springs 59,685-228 bushels of salt, on which the sum of \$3,005,222 25, in duties, has been collected, and paid into the treasury of the State; a sum over all expenses incurred by the sinking of wells, erecting buildings, machinery, paying officers' salaries, &c., of about \$2,467,022 10.

about \$2,467,022 10.

The Superintendent contradicts, in his report, the rumor that the salt springs are failing.

Report of the Trustees of the Astor Library. We have received a copy of the second annual report of the Trustees of the Astor Library in this city, and extract from it the following items of intelligence, which we have no doubt will be read with interest by the public :-

with interest by the public:—

The volumes belonging to the library now number 28,364, bound in 25,027 distinct volumes or books, the cost of which, including binding, exceeds thirty-five thousand dollars. As the progress which has been made in the construction of the library edifice justifies the assurance that it will be completed by the first of April, 1852, the time limited by the contract, the trustees have made arrangements to send their superintendent. Mr. Cogswell, to Europe a second time with a view to further and more extensive purchases. He will sail at an early day, in order that the object of his mission may be accomplished during the ensuing sail at an early day, in order that the object of his mission may be accomplished during the ensuing summer, and time may be left for importing, buding and arranging the books at the completion of the new building in the spring of 1852. The trustees hope to be able, in the summer of that year, to open the library to the public, with at least hity thousand volumes. In the misantime every fastify, which it is in their power to afford, with their present accommodations, is extended to all who resort to the library in the pursuit of literary or rejentific researches.

resort to the library in the pursuit of literary or recentific researches.

The walls of the library edifice are now completed and in readiness to receive the roof. In consequence of the illness of the architect, and a change which the trustees thought it advisable to make in the material for covering the roof, a delay of a few weeks has taken place; but the other perions of the work have been as regularly in progress as the season would allow with safety to the building, considering its dimensions—65 feet from the foundation to the roof—the progress of the work tas been as rapid as was admissible. There is every reasonable ground of assurance that the library will be open to the public in the summer of

The whole an convenient use of the books it ec. atains.

The whole an count of receipts from all sources during the last year was \$274,519 41. Of this amount \$6,273 24 were expended for books. The total amount of expenditures and investments during the same period was \$272,858 18.

Ventilation and Beating of Public Buildings.

THE LECTICER OF DR. WATSOM.

On Saturday last, Dr. Watson, of the New York Hospital, delivered a discourse on the above subject in the theatre of the hospital. A large number of the medical profession and of medical students were present, as were also some of our most respectable citizens belonging to other professions. He began by stating that the improvements in the hospital were commenced in May last, and have been in active progress ever since, and the new arrangements were so far complete as to allow the wards in every part of the building to be again open for the accommodation of the sick. It was, he said, thought advisable to invite the attention of the public towards them in their present state of renovation, and to soicht a careful inspection of them by the medical profession. Under this view, the executive commenced the Board of Governors, who have been more immediately instrumental in bringing about the present changes, and the physicians and surgeons of the institution, by whose advice and recommendation they were commenced, have solicited the favor of your attendance on the present coassion, and have being still equal to that of the main arrangements were not expective of the public towards them in their present state of renovation, and to soicht a careful inspection of the wards the main arrangement were commenced, have solicited the favor of your attendance on the present coassion, and have being still equal to that of the main arrangements were so far complete as to allow the wards in every part of the bourd of Governors, when the present state of renovation, and to soicht a careful inspection of the public towards them in their present state of renovation, and to soicht a tal in bringing about the present changes, and the physicians and surgeons of the institution, by whose advice and recommendation they were commenced, have solicited the favor of your attendance on the present occasion, and have instructed me to present to you a summary account of the improvements, and of the reasons and circumstances which have led to them. The health and comfort of domestic life are intimately connected with the abundant and unfailing supply of pure and genual air. To furnish this as far as possible free from accompanying annoyances, is a problem which of late has, excited much thought and ingenuity. The great fact developed the Hygeianic relations of the atmosphere within the past few years is, that the sources of indoor contamination are more abundant, more difficult of removal, and more deleterious in various ways than had been previously acknowledged or suspected. The words of Count Rumford, until recently a great authority, are in proof of this. As long, says he, as fire is kept up in a room and there is a considerable current in the chimney, how this tanding all the reduction that can be made in the size of its throat, the hange of air will be quite sufficient for keeping the room sweet and wholesome; and even in rooms in which there is no draught from the free space directly into the chimney, as in those heated by German stovea, and where the windows and doors are double and closed in the most exact manner possible by strips of posted paper or of list or far along the crevices, yet when those rooms are tolerably large, and not very much crowded nor filled with burning lamps and candies, the air in them is seldom so much injured as to become unwholessome. In reference to such disregard of thorough air, it is well remarked by a respectable authority, Mr. Barnen, that we instinctively shun approach to the dirty—the squalid—the diseased. We shun the garner ment that may have been more about the firm of the foreign of the firm of t

healthy inflammation, we can see the tendency to propagation from surface to surface. We see it in the contaminating touch of the lip in the diffusion of furuncul; in the progress of tubercle in the corroding ulcer, and in the multiplication of carbuncles; as well as in the extension of typhus, etc. After some further remarks on the subject of propagation, he said it was found that filthy clothing and foul rooms propagate disease in every way identical with such as originate from internal causes. The study, says he, of this primary law of organic development is never to be overlooked, by the inquirer into the hidden causes of disease. Applying it to the exhalations of the living body, he is, at least, in part prepared to resolve some of those suestions which formerly confounded, and which still continue to baffle, the judgment and sagacity of the most acute and assiduous observers. Thus far directed by it, it has furnished most of the suggestion which, of late years, have led to so much improvement in the comforts and amenities of social life, and, among the rest, to the creation of what has now become almost a new science—thermal ventilation. After the rest, to the creation of what has now become almost a new science—thermal ventilation. After remarking that the art of purifying in-door air has been greatly improved within the past few years, he fgave a brief history of ventilation in all ages, and particularly as it was known to the Romans. He showed that almost every appliance, now in use for heating and airing dwellings, were employed for the same purpose, and with very little modification, for centuries, and some of them since the earliest times. From these facts, he said, it is clear, not only that the instruments and appliances. for the same purpose, and with very little modification, for centuries, and some of them since the
earliest times. From these facts, he said, it is
clear, not only that the instruments and appliances
now in use for thermal ventilation are not of recent
date, but that they had, long ago, been occasionally
employed for that purpose. He then gave a brief
history of the New York Hospital. The main
building was, he said, commenced eighty years
ego, by Mr. John Jones, a surgeon of great reputation in this city about the middle of the last century,
and the author of the first medical work ever published in the country. The hospital was constructed after plans prepared under his supervision, and
has been, for sixty years, in constant use as an hospital. Taking its original plan in connection with
the elevated site of the buildings, en the brow of a
hill overlooking a level space of six hundred yards
lying between it and the banks of the Hudson
river, and with its rural, or, at least, suburban, exposure, it will be perceived that at the
date of its erection it must have been well provided
with all the requisites for maintaining a thorough
system of what is now technically called spontane
ous or natural ventilation. Its situation, I had said,
was suburban; the ground near the centre o
which the building now stands, for some time after
the commencement of the present century, was at
a considerable distance beyond the northern limits
of the city; the ground to the south of it, as far as
Murray street, was lying in open fields. A gentleman now officiating among our governors, looking
from the rear of his own house in Murray street,
re members to have witnessed the attack of the
populace upon the south wing of the building during
from the rear of his own house in Murray street,
re members to have witnessed the attack of the
populace upon the south wing of the building during
the memorable riot known in the history of the
city as the "doctor's mob." In the year 1792, Dr.
Tillary, after officiating about a month

were erdered to visit Boston and Phinadelphia, and other cities, to enquire into the practical application of such sanitary arrangements as had recently been introduced into the public institutions of those cities. The committee made two reports, and they recommended the new system of heating by steam, as practised in all the public establishments they had visited It is, say they in their report, capable of being managed with perfect safety; it is more efficient in large buildings than the sumple hot water; it obviates the necessity of numerous furnaces in different parts of the basement; it can be brought into fall operation with much greater speed than the hot water apparatus; it can be turned to a great variety of uses, as in aid of vanitation, in the heating of water for bulks, for cooking, and for the uses of laundry, it can be worked with much less labor and expense after the first outlay for fixtures, and with less

The Clipper Ships of New York, &c.

To the Editor of the Heald, particularly that class of our citizens whose "home is on the deep," mus have been very much gratified of late in the peru sal of the articles that have appeared in commendation and eulogy of the sharp and beautiful vessels that have so recently arrived at and departed from the port of New York. No less have their feel ngs been warmly enlisted in favor of such of the "race horse" fleet as have been, and are to be, committed to their appropriate element from the shippards of the commercial metropolis and other ports of the United States. No one has ever doubled or denied that Brother Jonathan is a fast specimen of the genus homo, a remarkably persevering and indomitable "go ahead" sort of a person, and a very successful one too, in the accomplishment of anything he takes into his head. It matters little what he undertakes to do, what its cost, magnitude, or the difficulties to be encountered and overcome; these are no bar to his progress, no check to the impetus of his resistless energy, which knows not the word impossible, if he only takes the notion. True perfection may not be reached at the first trial, perhaps not for several or many succeeding ones, but it is attained at last; when, with a sauciness peculiar to the confidence of his own ability, he invites opposition, and defies the world.

It has been a matter of notoriety, that for several centuries Great Britain has claimed that she was "mistress of the seas." Without stopping to inquire into the merits of her pretensions, or feeling the slightest wish to disturb her convictions upon this very important assumption, it may nevertheless be hinted, with as much delicacy as truth, that the master is greater than the mistress, and that, henceforth, Britannia must follow in the wake of Jonathap's climer fleet.

the slightest wish to disturb her convictions upon this very important assumption, it may nevertheless be hinted, with as much delicacy as truth, that the master is greater than the mistress, and that, henceforth, Britannia must follow in the wake of Jonathan's clipper fleet.

Those who read the newspapers with attention, cannot have failed to observe, that the recent arrival of the American clipper ship Oriental in the Thames, after a passage of 93 days from Hong Kong, China, has created no little sensation among the merchants and shipouilders of Queen Victoria's dominions. And it is not at all to be wendered at, that they should be in no small degree startled by the appearance of so beautiful and swift a sailing specimen of marine architecture. We know that she was visited by great numbers of the people, and very keenly examined by such of them as professed to comprehend the symmetry of her proportions, and thus to understand how desirable it would be to dispute her superiority in any way. Consequently, in the usual bluff style of mother Bail, an English shipbuilder has boldly declared, that if a carte blanche be but given him, he will construct a ship that shall "flog" the Orental, in all weathers, and on every point of sailing. We don't admire the choice of the word "flog," because it not only sounds harsh in Jonathan's ears, but acts a very decided provocative upon his sensibilities, jun determining him to say, in reply—"I should like to see you try it." The opportunity may be afforded this confident shipbuilder of testing his skill in the science of naval architecture much sooner than he contemplated; nor will our architects shrink from the contest, though all Europe were to throw down the gauntiet of defiance. We have always looked upon a fine ship with feelings of the strongest admiration, and well remember the delight experienced in our younger days, in repeatedly examining with more than ordinary interest, every chiper ship that came into the harbor of Charleston, S. C. The first in our memory was the

Houqua, Sea Witch, and Rainbow, and, about three years ago, the Memnon, and, Samuel Russell. Arriving in the harbor of San Francisco, in Sept.. 1849, we there saw the Architect, Grey Eagle, and Greyhound, all of Baltimore, each between 500 and 600 tons burthen, and each having the peculiar appearance of the sharp vessels built in that city. These three ships may be regarded as the pioneers of the California and East India fleet, now numbering near 30 ships, all of the sharpest build, and particularly constructed for very swift progress through the water.

Within the past year, and very recently, there have been launched from the ship yards of New-York, Boston, Portemouth, &c.; some of the largest and most magnificent clipper ships that have ever floated on salt water. These are, the Alert, Eclipse, Eternal, Celestial, Gazelle, White Squall, Black Squall, Stag Hound, Mandarin, Witcheraft, Sea Serpent, Sea Nymph, Surprise, Game Cock, Ino, and Reindeer; and, to be launched, the Flying Cloud, Joseph Bell, Racer, and several more not yet named. Differing in size from 800 to 1,800 tons burthen, these are, without exception, a most extraordinary collection of vessels. In their construction, we doubt not, the design of their builders is so to mould them, as to secure the great essential of fast sailing. How this quality is best secured, becomes, however, an open question, when we find their models so essentially different. Varying in length, breadth, depth, and other proportions, no two of them present any striking resemblance, except the in sharpness fore and aft; and in this respect they all agree, though in some the water line, from the fore channels to the stern, is straight, in others convex, but in most of them concave. Why any sea going vessel should be constructed with this hollow bow, at all, is a question not easily anawered; at all events, we have no partiality for it, and do not believe it to be the best constructed with this hollow bow, at all, is a question not easily answered; at all events, we have no partiality for it, and do not believe it to be the best form for speed. Straight, or slightly convex lines are, in our judgmeht, much to be preferred; for a longer floor is thus more certainly secured, and the water divided with a less momentum of resistance.

Of the entire number of these elippers, which of them shall experience prove to be the fastest sailer, "on a bowline," or free! Here we have a question of the deepen interest to their owners, builders, and commanders. It is not at all likely that

ers, and commanders. It is not at all likely that every one of thers will come up to the expectations formed, either of her stability or swiftness; for, in-dependent of the form of the hull, a great deal depends upon masting, stowage, trim, and the skilful handling of the vessel.

pends upon masting, stowage, trim, and the skilful handling of the vessel.

Theory has done much for shit building, but it will do a vast deal more, if founded on the basis of experiment and observation. But how shall the test be applied in demonstrating the qualities of each of these clipper ships named in this acticle? We presume that each of their captains fail not to try their craft "by the wind, or free," in all kinds of weather; nay, that they press them with as much canvass as they will bear, to force them through the water with a maximum velocity. Nor will the trial be without its value; but it fails in determining the relative qualities of each ship, by a comparison of her swiftness and stability with will the trial be without its value; but it fails in determining the relative qualities of each ship, by a comparison of her swiftness and stability with other ships, at the same time and under the same circumstances. And such is the trial we should like to see made, in proof of the superiority of one form over another for swift sailing, and by which it can be determined that one form or model combines the greater number of essential qualities. It is by experimental cruises only that the respective merits of these clippers can be satisfactorily ascertained. It is by such cruises that the valuable experience of the captain and his officers is made of great interest to the constructor, in noting the good and bad qualities of their ship, as these may depend on trim, ballast, sails, the disposition of masts and yards, &c., for they may and do affect her sailing. It may be fairly assumed that the builder of each one of the clipper fleet made switness the first resential in his design or model. Yet some of these ships will very much outsail others, were they tried together as we suggest. Let them be tried, then, by sending two or more to sea on an experimental cruise of a week. We shall in this way soon find out the best mould for passing through the water swiftly, as far as this depends upon the form at all, and not as it too often does upon the tremendous pressure of a too great quantity of canvass. All things being equal, there are thousands who would like to see such ships as the Samuel

Russe," and the Game Cock, the Eclipse and the Sea Serp, "nt, the Stag Hound and the Gazelle, or any other to," or more of them, enter the lists for a fair trial of sp. ed, before entering into the great race contemplate, by the clipper ships of England

The Wreek of the Charles Wharton.

The Wreek of the Carles Wharton.

To the knotter of the Carles Wharton.

In looking over your valuable paper of the 6th instant, there is an article under the above caption, with statements which, although true in the main, are decidedly false with regard to the U. S. revenue cutter Jackson. It states that "the officers of the U. S. revenue cutter Jackson, at that time at anchor in shore, witnessed the scene, but would not vesture to their rescue." As I happened to be on board the Charles Wharlon, in the capacity of acting quarter-master sergeant, at the time, I am happy to have it in my power to refute the ungenerous charge brought against the officers of the Jackson. When we went ashore on Muller Key the weather was good, although there was a stiff breese blowing, and something of a swell, owing to the shoal water in which our ship lay. Captain Rodgers, who, by the way, is a very shilled officer, went to work immediately to releve the ship; one of the anchors was carried out astern some two hundred fathoms, and after throwing about a hundred barrels of sourcrout and other stores overboard to lighten her, he fired to heave her off; but she was hard and fast, every swell setting her further on the reef. It was then (about six o'clock in the afterneon,) that a signal was seen pulling directly through the brakers for us, to the imminent peril of those in the boat. As soon as the officer boarded us and assertained our situation, he cheerfully offered Captain Rodgers, in behalf of all on board the Jackson, whatever aid it was in their power to give us. More than one-half our men were sent on board the cutter, and the next day we were safely lanked upon Eggmont Key, from whence we were taken by steamboat to Tampa Bay. While we remained on board the Jackson we shared alike with her crew the rations issued to them, the officers doing all in their power to render us comfortable. The claim made by Captain Smith, of the Coasting Trader, is very just, as his vessel was detained several days, and no doubt lost a great port

to aid us in this measure, but to no effect. As your paper says, like other and similar cases, it still remains undone.

W. D. W.

The Enterprise of the Atlantic cities, (Efrom the New Orleans Builstin, Jan 25]

We notice in several of the Atlantic cities, demonstrations of an enterprising spirit, which augur not merely a growing energy and disposition for accelerating progrees and improvement, but a graufying condition of increased and increasing prosperity. The Philadelphians, a few days since, had a grand jubilee on the occasion of the arrival of the propeller steamer City of Glasgow, which is the first of a regular line of steamboats, gaudily dressed up with flaunting streamers, freighted with the talent and beauty of the city, to welcome the ship some distance below the city, was the preliminary part of the programme. Then came an interchange of courtesies, the firing of salutes, the reciprocity of greetings and gratulations, all gracefully terminating in a bounteous and refreshing entertainment on board of one of the escorting steamboats. In reading the detailed account of this spirited and graceful ovation, our attention was arrested by one or two facts incidentally alluded to by the epeakers, and which, in all probability, were not thought deserving of any consideration on the part of the auditors. In mentioning the embarkation of the guests in one of the steamers, an allusion was made to the difficulty she encounted in making her way through the ice in the Delaware river; and Capt. Matthswe, of the City of Glasgow, in his speech, acknowledging a complimentary toast, stated that he had been obliged to go four hundred mites south of his course, owing to the weather incident to the northern coast at this season of the year. We, who live in this gesial lactitude, may be better able to appreciate the energy and enterprise of the authors of this undertaking, in the face of such unfavorable natural obstacles. Philadelphia is determined to have a direct line of steamers one, genial aprit of patr.otism, as well

shead citizens of Savannah were celebrating, in the like appropriate manner, the advent of the second of their splendid line of steamers, connecting them in sixty hours' time with New York. The Savannah papers give a most appetizing account of the feast of fat things set berore a large assemblage of ladies and gentemen, by the spirited agents of the line in that city, Messrs. Padelford, Fay & Co., on the arrival of their new steamship, the Alsbama, which, with the Fiorida, constitutes a weekly line of communication with New York. These two steamers are about twelve or thirteen hundred tons burden, and can carry two hundred cabin passengers each. In all the requisites of strength and architectural proportions and fitness, as well as those of comport and elegance, these superb ships are far supernor to their predecessors, the Cherokee and Tennessee. From New Orleans to Macon, and thence to Savannata, is a favorite route of travel north with our citizens, insemuch as the change from railways to steamships turnish a pleasing variety, and a relief from the fatigues of a long land route.

The citizens of Savannah may be well proud of their noble steamships, and their example of enterprise and public spirit is deserving of all praise and imitation. With a population of less than twenty thousand, they have accomplished more to advance the prosperity of their city than many cities we wot of with ten times their population and commerce. Unnided by State patronage, or with capital out of the State, they built one of the longest and best appointed railroads in the United States, being, with the exception of the Erie road, the longest road in the country under the government of one corporation; and for years they have had a line of steamships, half of which are owned in their own city, that are not excelled by any steamers of their city of the striking evidence of this spirit of enterprise and progress, which is so generally animating all the Atlantic cities. En-

this spirit of enterprise and progress, which is so generally animating all the Atlantic cities. Eagrossed as are the people of South Carolina, and as they have been, since 1832, in their own peculiar politics, they have not neglected the interest of their

We will, en passant, instance as proof of this

politics, they have not neglected the interest of their seaport.

We will, en passant, instance as proof of this devotion to the interest of their metropolis, these two facts.—The interior of Carolina is connected with Charleston by 271 miles of railroad, and Charleston is connected, outwardly, by lines of steamships, with New York, Philadelphia (or was a short time since), Wilmington and Savannab, and will be in a few months, as we have already taken occasion to notice, with Liverpool

Charleston is the Mecca of every Carolinian; if he does not, as a part of his religion, turn his face towards it in his devotion, it is the first and absorbing object of his love and pride. This is a noble trait in a Carolinian; we may ablor his politics, but we must honor and respect his love for his State. It is a principle (for with every citizen of South Carolina, the attachment to his State is not an evanescent passion, but a principle) deserving all praise and imitation. It is, moreover, a principle that often cherks us when we feel disposed to comment with harshness upon the extravegant, ideal, and fallacious views, which have obsecuted the judgment of their public men, and led them to the commission of many follies, upon the question of their federal relations. Carolina is factions and revolutionizing, and yet we felly believe that she will never be down to the extremity of separating from her sister States, for she well shows, mangre all the declarations of her politicians, that accession will involve her in irretrievable ruin. But, however this may be, should she pursue the looish part, and cut loose from the Union, she will adopt this extreme measure from the convictions that the honor and interest of the State demand the sacrifice. Such State pride and devotion "cover a multitude of sins."

It is a work of supererogation for us to deduce a moral from these evidences of enterprise and progress, in which all are taking a part; and we must take good care that we commence at once; that we do not repose as laggards in the